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Chair: Mr. Jürgenson ..... (Estonia)

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The meeting was called to order at 10.05 a.m.

Opening statement by the Chair

1. **The Chair** said that, in the context of the work of the General Assembly over the current session, an emphasis had been placed on the pursuit of a decent life for all on a sustainable planet. The 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, the Addis Ababa Action Agenda of the Third International Conference on Financing for Development, the Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction 2015–2030 and the Paris Agreement under the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change were all tools that would help to make that pursuit a reality. Many encouraging reports had been heard from countries on their efforts to achieve the Sustainable Development Goals during the recent general debate of the plenary General Assembly. The Second Committee's deliberations were critical to supporting those efforts.

2. Despite the good progress reported by countries and their partners, it would be a challenging period for development and poverty eradication. The current global situation offered new and exciting opportunities for collaboration and human advancement, but many of them were compounded by risks. To maximize the benefits, the international community must improve its ability to work together flexibly in a spirit of pragmatism, including within the Committee.

3. It was important to work towards fulfilling the promise of fair and inclusive globalization. Many of the benefits tied to increased interdependence, such as international cooperation, mobility and trade, had led to improved national standards of living. However, those improvements were accompanied by complex challenges. Without inclusive and ambitious policies, inequalities could grow and become increasingly entrenched. That was especially true of the exclusion of women. Greater gender equality had been demonstrated repeatedly to have multiplier effects on poverty reduction, yet women and girls remained disadvantaged in various dimensions in all countries.

4. Inclusion should also be the starting point when discussing the potential benefits of the ongoing monumental shifts in science and technology. No one was immune to digital change, much of which was exciting and held great promise, particularly in the areas of e-governance, transparency and accountability, global civil society and international partnerships. However, many people were being left behind by the opportunities generated by technological change. Accordingly, there was a need for awareness-raising, knowledge exchange and capacity-building with respect to information and communications technology for development and the benefits of the digital economy.

5. The inclusive development, use and adaptation of those technologies would also play key roles in moving towards more sustainable development pathways by 2030. Several trends that were intertwined with globalization, such as rapid urbanization and unsustainable consumption patterns, were contributing to environmental degradation, biodiversity loss and climate change.

6. Despite their potential, science, technology and innovation could not solve the problem of climate change in the absence of huge economic and social shifts. Nevertheless, for a healthy planet, the full power must be harnessed of breakthroughs in such areas as ecosystems management, sustainable transportation and clean and renewable energies. Through its deliberations on those issues, the Committee must ensure that it was putting people first, especially those furthest behind or at risk of falling behind. However, that was easier said than done and he appreciated the fact that the Bureau had endorsed a vision for the Committee's work that was very forward-looking and committed to the principle of leaving no one behind.

7. The Committee would be considering a wide range of agenda items and a large number of draft proposals would be negotiated. He and the Bureau stood ready to provide support in every step of that process. For the Committee to achieve its full potential and for progress to be made, the months ahead must be about listening, learning and working together.

Statement by the Under-Secretary-General for Economic and Social Affairs

8. **Mr. Liu** Zhenmin (Under-Secretary-General for Economic and Social Affairs) said that a global vision was guiding the efforts of the international community towards sustainable development. The historic 2030 Agenda, a shared vision of humanity, demanded new ways for countries to work together within and across their national institutions. It required the development of integrated and cross-sectoral approaches and a better understanding of specific national situations, tailoring actions accordingly. It also meant leaving no one behind.

9. While signs of progress had already been seen, a faster pace was needed. As the Sustainable Development Goals Report 2017 had demonstrated, the rate of progress in many areas was far slower than what was needed to meet the targets by 2030. In that

context, he wished to share five key messages to facilitate the work of the Second Committee.

10. First, with regard to the world economic situation and prospects, industrial production and world trade had rebounded compared with the previous year. While economic sentiment had generally improved, the longer-term potential remained hampered by weak investment and low productivity growth. That was compounded by high levels of economic and policy uncertainty, which clouded prospects in vital areas such as world trade, migration, development cooperation and climate action. In 2016, several countries had experienced setbacks in progress towards achieving the Sustainable Development Goals. Average incomes had declined in several regions, putting at risk efforts to reach the Goals. Extreme weather events, which wreaked devastation in several countries, had also highlighted the importance of addressing environmental impacts and climate change.

11. Second, all countries needed to join forces to foster a globalization process that was more inclusive, equitable and sustainable and left no one behind. Many provisions of the 2030 Agenda and the Addis Ababa Action Agenda reflected that demand. The international community must work to better realize the positive potential of globalization, while minimizing its negative consequences. For its part, the Department of Economic and Social Affairs was intensifying its research on globalization. It was determined to provide assistance in identifying effective policies to guide the cross-border movements of trade, capital flows, people, knowledge and technology.

12. Third, concrete and accelerated action was needed on the Addis Ababa Action Agenda, which provided the global framework to engage all stakeholders in mobilizing the different means of implementation for sustainable development. That framework called for dramatic increases in domestic, international, public and private financing. It also addressed the need for capacity-building, technology development and transfer, coherence in domestic policies, action on global systemic issues, and knowledge-sharing and mutual learning for better results on the ground.

13. National tax systems needed to be strengthened, and international tax cooperation stepped up. It would also be necessary to limit tax avoidance and illicit financial flows that drained vital resources from developing countries.

14. Commitments must be fulfilled to provide official development assistance (ODA), which remained a vital and distinctive source of support for the poorest and most vulnerable countries and communities.

15. Commitments were also needed to increase the supply of concessional resources for long-term investments in sustainable development, even as more finance was allocated to emergency responses.

16. Boosting the contribution of South-South and triangular cooperation to sustainable development, and enhancing the role of development banks, remained strategic opportunities to be fully realized.

17. It was important to reorient incentives, through financial regulation and policymaking, to ensure that private finance was aligned with sustainable development. Long-term private investment was indispensable for achieving sustainable and inclusive growth.

18. Support to developing countries must be marshalled in the areas of action required by the vision of leaving no one behind, including by making new choices and larger-scale investments; using new evidence-based tools; strengthening domestic institutions, including in the areas of data, monitoring and review; providing longer-term budget support; and broadening multi-stakeholder partnerships and supporting stakeholder engagement at all levels.

19. His fourth key message was that science, technology and innovation were at the heart of accelerating progress towards sustainable development. They strengthened an understanding of the drivers of change and helped to scale up the impact of sustainable development. The ability to monitor, plan and implement was also improved in manifold ways through the science-policy interface. The speed of technological change could have sweeping impacts across all the Sustainable Development Goals. Whether artificial intelligence and the Internet of things constituted effective tools for achieving the 2030 Agenda would depend, however, on providing opportunities to all. Devising effective ways to mitigate the challenges and risks associated with those technologies would be critical. Ongoing analysis would help the international community to prepare and respond effectively.

20. Progress has been made in implementing the Technology Facilitation Mechanism since its launch as part of the 2030 Agenda. A multi-stakeholder partnership was emerging in support of the Mechanism's online platform, to serve as an information gateway for science, technology and innovation initiatives, mechanisms and programmes for the Sustainable Development Goals.

21. His fifth message was the importance of capacity development for achieving the Goals. The 2030 Agenda was a country-led process, and Governments were ultimately responsible for its implementation. However, Member States had made it clear that they needed the support of the United Nations system to help build national capacities in key areas such as data collection and disaggregation, the translation of global development commitments into national strategies and plans, and the preparation of voluntary national reviews at the high-level political forum on sustainable development. That was particularly true for countries in special situations, which faced significant challenges that must be overcome to achieve inclusive, equitable and sustainable development for all. While those countries faced similar challenges, each category also faced unique circumstances and concerns that the Goals should address.

22. The Department of Economic and Social Affairs offered knowledge and expertise relevant to all the dimensions of sustainable development. It conducted impartial and neutral policy analysis on substantive issues, combined with robust support to United Nations intergovernmental processes. It also had a strong record of assisting countries by catalysing international support and expertise to strengthen national capacities to implement the 2030 Agenda. His Department was committed to responding to the strong call from Member States for increased support in that area.

23. During its previous session, the Committee had served very effectively as a key platform, leading to the adoption of landmark General Assembly resolution 71/243 on the quadrennial comprehensive policy review of operational activities of the United Nations development system. In response to the policy review, the Secretary-General had presented his broad vision for change in his recent report entitled "Repositioning the United Nations development system to deliver on the 2030 Agenda: ensuring a better future for all" (A/72/124-E/2018/3). Concrete recommendations would be contained in his follow-up report to be released in December 2017. The Secretary-General was making every effort to ensure a holistic approach in which ongoing reform efforts were mutually reinforcing.

24. Ultimately, reform was a shared responsibility. However, there was already a strong foundation upon which to build. The high-level political forum had the central role in overseeing follow-up and review at the global level, working coherently with the General Assembly, the Economic and Social Council and other relevant organs and forums. The strong interest shown by 43 countries to present voluntary national reviews at the high-level political forum in 2017, and by 48 countries at the forum in 2018, illustrated the broad political commitment to implement the 2030 Agenda. The Committee could build on the policy recommendations that had emerged from the high-level political forum and the Economic and Social Council, and also on the Committee's own previous work, to further advance the 2030 Agenda. He was currently taking steps to enhance the effectiveness, efficiency, accountability and internal coordination of his Department so that it could provide the best possible support to the follow-up and review of the 2030 Agenda at the global level.

Keynote address by Mr. Panagirya, Professor of Economics and the Jagdish Bhagwati Professor of Indian Political Economy in the School of International and Public Affairs at Columbia University

25. **Mr. Panagirya** (Professor of Economics and the Jagdish Bhagwati Professor of Indian Political Economy in the School of International and Public Affairs at Columbia University), accompanying his statement with a digital slide presentation, said that he had carefully chosen the title for his address: "A road to rapid economic transformation". As an optimist he believed that, over time, all countries would transform into modern rich economies but the real issue was whether that could be done at a rapid pace. It had taken the industrialized countries of the West over a century to achieve the transformations that had occurred in a few decades in countries such as China, South Korea and Singapore following the Second World War. As determined and able leadership was a key component of such transformation, governance issues were also crucial. Good policies alone would not succeed without the capability to implement them effectively.

26. The Sustainable Development Goals were a good reflection of the objectives being pursued by all developing countries, namely poverty elimination, human development, low inequality, labour rights, environmental sustainability, and peace and security. There was no disagreement about those objectives as such. The real issue was which path should be taken to achieve them.

27. Rapid growth was the most important instrument. Nothing would be achieved without growth, particularly for countries starting at low levels of per capita income. Growth had a "pull up" effect, in contrast to the passive "trickle down" effect. Rapid growth rates of 8 to 10 per cent were an active force that created widespread employment opportunities, increased people's incomes and therefore improved their ability to access education and health. It was often forgotten that a minimum income was essential

for access to such amenities. For people living in extreme poverty, even publicly provided health and education services were difficult to access.

28. Rapid growth was also important indirectly, since it helped to increase government revenues for public services. Higher per capita incomes in modern India, compared with the 1950s, were one such example. Rates of revenue collection also increased with rising incomes.

29. The redistribution of wealth among the population remained difficult when everyone was poor. At low levels of income, there were insufficient resources to ensure a decent standard of living for all. Hence, it was not possible for Governments to create an effective administrative machinery to deliver social programmes at the district, subdistrict and village levels. Even when such machinery was created, governance problems in the public sector limited the ability of Governments to deliver effective outcomes.

30. All the countries that had maintained a rapid rate of economic grown for two or more decades had six particular features in common: a rapid expansion of merchandise exports; rapid growth of labour-intensive manufacturing in the early phases of high growth; a rapid growth in services; rapid movement of workers from agriculture and traditional activities to manufacturing and services; rapid urbanization; and a rapid rise in real wages.

31. Trade openness was an effective policy for rapid growth because countries could specialize in and export the products they manufactured relatively cheaply, but import those they produced at relatively high costs. Exporters competed against and learned from the best in the world, leading to continuous improvements in productivity through the upgrading of technology, management practices and product quality, as well as cost-cutting measures. Large export markets allowed countries to exploit economies of scale. Open markets also gave exporters access to the highest-quality inputs to achieve high quality in their own products. High levels of exports also meant a high level of imports. Domestic producers of import-competing goods were subject to similar competitive pressure and exposure to foreign products and processes.

32. The most effective policy packages included low barriers to trade. To provide a neutral trade policy regime it was important not to create hidden barriers to exports or intervene in support of import substitutions. Infrastructure was another crucial component, as goods for import and export must be linked to global markets. Trade facilitation was also needed, including the elimination of unnecessary clearances for exports and imports, fast reimbursement of indirect taxes on exports, and low turnaround times for ships at ports. Other important factors in good policy packages were establishing flexible land and labour market policies, which included avoiding overly high minimum wages that could destroy labour-intensive sectors; not boosting exports through subsidies; and having open foreign direct investment policies.

33. Conversely, automation was often seen as a potential threat to rapid growth and transformation. However, that threat was often exaggerated because it was possible to see the jobs that automation would destroy but not those that it would create. Historically, automation had led to readjustments but ultimately it had not made people redundant. Furthermore, the full automation of many labour-intensive activities was still not technologically feasible and, even where it was, that process was too costly to implement commercially.

34. Lastly, one concern mentioned by some was the rising threat of protectionist policies. However, the global market in merchandise was about $17 trillion and about $6 trillion in service exports, totalling $23 trillion. For most countries, whether that global market expanded to $25 trillion or shrank to $20 trillion over the next few years was less relevant than what they could do individually to increase their own share of the export pie through their national policies.

35. **Mr. Mebarki** (Algeria) asked Mr. Panagirya whether he considered economics to be a genuine scientific subject, whether he would choose between a governmental policy of austerity or inflation to deal with public debt, whether trade had a positive impact on investment and whether the Economic and Social Council might be the ideal forum to establish a comprehensive and integrated economic and development policy.

36. **Mr. Mero** (United Republic of Tanzania) asked Mr. Panagirya how global trade governance within the framework of the World Trade Organization (WTO) could be saved from the current challenges that it faced.

37. **Mr. Panagirya** (Professor of Economics and the Jagdish Bhagwati Professor of Indian Political Economy in the School of International and Public Affairs at Columbia University) said that economics was a social science that followed certain basic principles. However, putting those principles into practice by policymakers involved an element of art.

38. Austerity versus inflation was a false trade-off. Generally speaking, austerity could be imposed for

short periods but over the long term the debt accumulated would become unsustainable and hard to service.

39. With regard to global economic governance, he favoured multiple instruments rather than a single entity. In today's complex world, policymaking required specialized bodies. Multiple instruments still served a purpose.

40. He agreed that the Doha Development Round had not made much progress, which was a matter for concern. However, WTO had created a strong dispute settlement body that was now working efficiently and where developing countries, irrespective of their size, had successfully been able to challenge developed countries. While the current disagreement over the appointment of judges to the Appellate Body would still need to be resolved, WTO remained a sound institution well worth preserving.

General debate

41. **Mr. Morejón Pazmiño** (Ecuador), speaking on behalf of the Group of 77 and China, said that the current session was an opportunity for developing countries to further the implementation of the 2030 Agenda. Moreover, with the adoption of the New Urban Agenda outcome document of the United Nations Conference on Housing and Sustainable Urban Development (Habitat III) and the global indicator framework that included an initial set of indicators to be refined annually and reviewed comprehensively by the United Nations Statistical Commission, the ambition and commitment to make concrete steps towards a better life for all remained high.

42. However, the pace of implementing the 2030 Agenda must be accelerated given the urgency of the challenges to achieve sustainable development, as had been made clear in the report of the Secretary-General on progress towards the Sustainable Development Goals (E/2017/66). It was also important to recall that only 13 years remained to translate the international community's common vision into concrete actions.

43. In an increasingly interconnected world, global economic governance was of crucial importance for the success of national efforts to achieve sustainable development in all countries. There remained a continued need to improve global economic governance and to strengthen the role of the United Nations in that regard through extensive consultations and joint contributions for shared benefits.

44. Work during the current session should focus on the overarching objective of eradicating poverty in all its forms and dimensions, and pursuing sustainable development in a balanced, coordinated and integrated manner while building on the unfinished business of the Millennium Development Goals. In the course of implementing the 2030 Agenda, the principles enshrined therein must always be maintained, including with respect to common but differentiated responsibilities and leaving no one behind.

45. The Group wished to recall the principle of full realization of the right to self-determination of peoples living under colonial and foreign occupation; that every State should freely exercise full permanent sovereignty over all its wealth, natural resources and economic activity; and that States were strongly urged to refrain from promulgating and applying any unilateral economic, financial or trade measures not in accordance with international law and the Charter of the United Nations that impeded the full achievement of economic and social development, particularly in developing countries. The Group also reaffirmed the need to respect the territorial integrity and political independence of States.

46. The Group highlighted the importance of assessing progress, identifying obstacles and challenges to the implementation of the financing for development outcomes, addressing new and emerging topics of relevance to the implementation of the Addis Ababa Action Agenda, and providing policy recommendations for action by the international community, particularly regarding support from developed to developing countries. It therefore welcomed the second Economic and Social Council forum on financing development follow-up, held from 22 to 25 May 2017, and called for the implementation of its intergovernmentally agreed conclusions and recommendations. Financing for development was the key to the implementation of the 2030 Agenda. Assured and predictable financial flows were indispensable to the achievement of sustainable development, particularly by developing countries.

47. Trade was still recognized as an engine for growth and sustainable development. The Group reaffirmed the central role of the WTO in providing the modern global economy with a multilateral framework of rules governing international trade relations, an essential mechanism for preventing and resolving trade disputes and a forum for addressing trade-related issues. The Group also called for positive outcomes from the Eleventh WTO Ministerial Conference, to be held in Buenos Aires in December 2017, including with respect to the Sustainable Development Goals.

48. Investing in sustainable and resilient infrastructure, including transport, energy, water and sanitation for all, was a prerequisite for achieving many of the development goals. The Group welcomed the holding of the Global Infrastructure Forum in Washington on 22 April 2017 and, in that context, recalled that developing countries were the most affected by a lack of sustainable and resilient infrastructure.

49. Sovereign debt was a matter that should concern both developed and developing countries as it had the potential to adversely impact the global economy and the achievement of the Sustainable Development Goals if left unchecked.

50. International development cooperation and ODA were essential for sustainable development and would remain the main channels for international cooperation. The Group regretted the fact that there had been no change in the level of ODA over the past six years and noted that shifting ODA resources towards crisis situations was inconsistent with a sustainable approach to development. Such a situation promoted reactionary tendencies, not the long-term mindset needed for financing developing and achieving the Sustainable Development Goals. It was also important to address the diverse needs and challenges faced by countries in special situations in order to leave no one behind.

51. South-South cooperation was not a substitute for, but rather a complement to, North-South cooperation, as reaffirmed in the Nairobi outcome document of the High-level United Nations Conference on South-South Cooperation. As a collective endeavour of developing countries, South-South cooperation deserved to be promoted separately and independently and must be driven by the countries of the South. As such cooperation was critical for developing countries, it required a long-term vision and a global institutional arrangement. The preparations to commemorate the fortieth anniversary of the Buenos Aires Plan of Action for Promoting and Implementing Technical Cooperation among Developing Countries would provide an opportunity to enhance the current institutional arrangements in order to effectively support South-South cooperation.

52. **Mr. Locsin** (Philippines), speaking on behalf of the Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN), said that ASEAN had come a long way from its humble beginnings in 1967. It now actively took a leading role as a regional and global player in advancing cooperation on political and security matters, promoting sustainable economic growth and fostering social and cultural development. The important role of ASEAN had been recognized in General Assembly resolution 71/317, which commemorated the fiftieth anniversary of ASEAN.

53. At the thirtieth ASEAN summit held in Manila on 29 April 2017, ASEAN leaders had reaffirmed their commitment to implementing the ASEAN Community Vision 2025 and the 2030 Agenda in a mutually reinforcing manner in order to build a truly inclusive and people-centred ASEAN community. Several outcome documents to be signed, adopted or noted by ASEAN leaders at the thirty-first ASEAN summit, to be held in Manila in November 2017, would directly support the Sustainable Development Goals.

54. In a joint statement issued on 5 August 2017, the ASEAN Ministers for Foreign Affairs had agreed that sustainable development was a regional and global priority, and that clear complementarities between the ASEAN Community Vision 2025 and the 2030 Agenda would enable both sides to identify comprehensive solutions to address regional challenges, including poverty eradication, disaster management and climate change. In its capacity as ASEAN Coordinator for Sustainable Development, Thailand had hosted a high-level brainstorming dialogue on enhancing those complementarities on 31 March 2017 in Bangkok. That dialogue had identified priority cross-cutting areas that could serve as catalysts. A related joint study would shortly be prepared by Thailand, the ASEAN secretariat and the Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific. There were plans to hold an ASEAN-European Union dialogue on sustainable development in November 2017 in Thailand.

55. On 22 August 2017, the United Nations Development Programme had held a symposium on achieving and financing the Sustainable Development Goals with a view to building a people-centred ASEAN community. The United Nations Development Programme had also presented a study assessing the development finance landscape in all ASEAN countries. According to the study, while extreme poverty had fallen significant across the ASEAN community, there remained many working poor and therefore high vulnerability to falling back into poverty. The study had encouraged ASEAN countries to establish a stronger basis for financing policies through the systematic costing of development plans and policies, and by establishing comprehensive long-term financing strategies.

56. **Ms. Nazaire** (Haiti), speaking on behalf of the Caribbean Community (CARICOM), said that, despite some encouraging signs in the global economy, growth among the CARICOM economies would once again be

insufficient to meet their development needs, owing to external shocks and structural vulnerabilities. Several members of CARICOM would therefore have budgetary deficits and increased public debt. Greater resilience and stronger capacities would be key elements in successfully meeting those challenges and implementing the 2030 Agenda.

57. CARICOM was committed to ensuring continued coherence between the priority areas of the Addis Ababa Action Agenda and the 2030 Agenda. It was crucial to assist developing countries in attaining long-term debt sustainability and greater financial inclusion, including by further strengthening financing for development. The United Nations development system and the international financial institutions should also provide CARICOM countries with increased access to concessional financing.

58. The phenomenon of de-risking, which had disrupted traditional correspondent banking relations, was one of the major challenges facing the Caribbean region. The absence of services offered by correspondent banks excluded the region from the global trade and financial system, and could also pose a grave threat to global financial security and stability by exposing CARICOM to the risks associated with money-laundering and terrorist financing. The Global Conference on Correspondent Banking, De-Risking, and the Labelling of the Caribbean as a Tax Haven, held in Antigua and Barbuda in October 2016, had therefore provided an opportunity for regional political leaders and representatives of the global financial sector to work together to solve that problem and put an end to de-risking once and for all.

59. CARICOM welcomed the fact that such a transparent approach had been adopted, rather than the imposition of unilateral measures that would be harmful to the economies and reputation of the region. It recognized the continued need for urgent action to strengthen the integrity of the financial system and correct the false perception that the Caribbean was a high-risk region.

60. CARICOM recognized the important role of the quadrennial comprehensive policy review as the main instrument for repositioning the United Nations development system in order to assess the effectiveness of the assistance provided to meet the needs of developing countries. Operational activities for development should take into account the need to build, develop, promote and strengthen the capacities of developing countries, in particular the least developed countries still struggling with the eradication of extreme poverty and hunger.

61. Welcoming the adoption of the New Urban Agenda, CARICOM called for all stakeholders to contribute towards building a culture of global solidarity and cooperation, which were key factors for successful sustainable urban development at the regional and global levels.

62. CARICOM also welcomed the strong proposals for reform of the United Nations put forward by the Secretary-General. It looked forward to the implementation of effective actions at all levels in a transparent, inclusive, equitable and coordinated manner.

63. Strengthened cooperation between CARICOM and the United Nations system remained a key component of efforts to promote peace, security and sustainable development in the region.

64. Climate change was one of the most important challenges facing small island developing States. The considerable damage caused by the most recent hurricanes was truly tragic. The frequency and intensity of those disasters showed that climate change was real and that swift action was needed to prevent the global average temperature from increasing by 2 degrees Celsius. CARICOM was committed to taking effective and bold action in that regard and therefore urgently appealed for the accelerated implementation of the historic Paris Agreement. Gravely concerned by the lack of financing for long-term adaptation and mitigation efforts, it also recalled the urgent need for financial institutions to take into account the specific challenges facing small island developing States such as those within CARICOM.

65. The international community must also act decisively to reverse the degradation of the oceans and the irresponsible use of their resources. In that regard, CARICOM looked forward to the deliberations at the twenty-third session of the Conference of the Parties to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change, to be held in Bonn in November 2017.

66. **Ms. Hossain** (Bangladesh), speaking on behalf of the Group of Least Developed Countries, said that the theme of the general debate of the plenary Assembly "Focusing on people — striving for peace and a decent life for all on a sustainable planet" captured the need for a balanced approach to sustainable development for a peaceful world. The Committee's deliberations and actions would play an important role in driving forward the implementation of the 2030 Agenda.

67. The least developed countries continued to be plagued with multiple structural challenges. Eighteen of twenty three countries facing acute food insecurity

were least developed countries with a combined population of around 72 million. Under the current growth trajectory, nearly 35 per cent of the population in least developed countries could remain in extreme poverty by 2030. The long-standing challenges were compounded by new and emerging ones, such as climate change, public health emergencies, conflicts, declining commodity prices and rising capital flows. Context-specific approaches were also needed for the least developed countries in conflict or post-conflict situations, those experiencing political instability and those unable to deliver basic public services.

68. The least developed countries were concerned that they were not on course to reach many of the targets of the Sustainable Development Goals. That concern had also led them to conclude that it would not be possible for half of their number to meet the criteria for graduation by 2020, an objective set out in the Programme of Action for the Least Developed Countries for the Decade 2011-2020. Hence, the special needs of the least developed countries must have a wider recognition.

69. The Group welcomed the report of the Secretary-General on crisis mitigation and resilience-building for the least developed countries (A/72/270) and urged the international community to establish a comprehensive multi-stakeholder resilience-building mechanism for their countries, as proposed in the report. The mechanism would entail a number of measures to be established or revitalized at the national, regional and global levels in response to various types of disasters and shocks. While the least developed countries were making visible efforts to align their existing policies with the 2030 Agenda, the international community must deliver on in its commitments to provide them with the support crucial for their success.

70. The widespread and unprecedented impact of climate change was placing a disproportionate burden on the poorest and most vulnerable countries, especially the least developed countries. In view of the fact that those countries were still far from addressing their actual finance needs in order to implement the Paris Agreement, they called upon their development partners to ensure effective delivery on climate change commitments and provide access to all relevant climate change-related funds.

71. ODA continued to be the largest and most crucial source of external financing for the development of the least developed countries. The Group was deeply concerned that total ODA from the Development Assistance Committee countries of the Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development to the least developed countries had declined from $41 billion in 2014 to $37 in 2015, and the preliminary data for 2016 showed a further decrease by 3.9 per cent in real terms compared with 2015. The Group therefore called on all development partners to meet their ODA-related internationally agreed targets.

72. The least developed countries were also deeply concerned by the considerable decline in their share of world merchandise exports, which had contracted by 25 per cent in 2015 and by a further 6 per cent the following year and totalled 0.94 per cent in 2016. Development and trading partners had an important role to play in reversing that trend.

73. Greater foreign direct investment was needed in least developed countries as a means to build their productive capacities and promote full employment. In line with target 17.5 of the Sustainable Development Goals, investment promotion regimes for the least developed countries should be implemented.

74. Recognizing the contribution of migrants and remittances to their economies, the least developed countries strongly urged partner countries to start to facilitate the orderly, safe and responsible migration and mobility of people, including through the implementation of planned and well-managed migration policies, in line with target 10.7 of the Sustainable Development Goals.

75. Science, technology and innovation could be effective tools for furthering development and the Group welcomed the establishment and operationalization of the Technology Bank for the Least Developed Countries. Greater efforts were needed to mobilize resources for its effective long-term functioning.

76. Notwithstanding persistent challenges and constraints, several least developed countries had met, or would soon meet, the criteria for their graduation from that category. In that regard, the process for their graduation and smooth transition should be strengthened so that graduating and recently graduated countries did not face any disruption to their development trajectory, including in their efforts to achieve the Sustainable Development Goals.

77. As the United Nations had been a long-standing development partner of the least developed countries, they were concerned by the fact that the share of the Organization's expenditure for operational activities for development was declining in their countries. The United Nations development system must continue to prioritize allocations to the least developed countries.

78. **Mr. Jaime Calderón** (El Salvador), speaking on behalf of the Community of Latin American and Caribbean States (CELAC), expressed sympathy for the loss of life caused by extreme meteorological events across the globe, including in several Latin American and Caribbean countries, and said that those events posed challenges to sustainable development. Support from the international community was important in that context, particularly from the entities of the United Nations development system.

79. In its resolutions to be adopted at the current session, the Committee must address the structural challenges of the international economy and reform of the international system in a way that took into account the development challenges of developing countries and provided political and operational guidance on all aspects of sustainable development. In so doing, added value must be given to the overall implementation and follow-up of the 2030 Agenda and the Addis Ababa Action Agenda in order to eradicate poverty in all its forms and dimensions.

80. CELAC was committed to achieving sustainable development in a balanced and integrated manner. However, in seeking common solutions for the benefit of all and in the interests of leaving no one behind, it would be essential to have adequate financial and non-financial resources. In that regard, developed countries should comply with their agreed commitments, including the allocation of 0.7 per cent of their gross national product as ODA to developing countries.

81. It was a matter of concern that concessional finance fell as national incomes grew, and that countries might not therefore be able to access sufficient affordable financing from other sources to meet their needs. CELAC was committed to promoting the use of criteria that utilized multidimensional indicators in order to accurately measure the complex realities of development in the region. It also encouraged shareholders in multilateral development banks and donors to develop graduation policies that were sequenced, phased and gradual.

82. Alternative sources of financing that supported South-South cooperation initiatives at the intraregional level should be identified. However, such arrangements were a complement to, not a substitute for North-South and triangular cooperation.

83. In view of the need for a non-discriminatory, fair and open trade system, CELAC members recognized the value of advancing towards economic integration, promoting public and private alliances, and fostering mechanisms that substantially increased interregional and extraregional trade.

84. CELAC recognized the need to foster international tax cooperation, strengthen regulatory frameworks, promote the interests of developing countries in international forums and support intergovernmental initiatives to prevent tax evasion and avoidance, corruption and money-laundering.

85. CELAC called on the United Nations system, in consultation with the international financial system, to develop transparent methods for measuring progress on sustainable development in a manner that went beyond per capita income. Such measurements should recognize poverty in all its forms and dimensions, the social, economic and environmental dimensions of domestic output, and structural gaps at all levels.

86. The Latin American and Caribbean region was committed to following up on and implementing the 2030 Agenda, including promoting gender equality and implementing inclusive, equitable and quality education policies. CELAC was particularly interested in the proposals of the Secretary-General to align the work of the United Nations with the 2030 Agenda and looked forward to recommendations that would effectively support its implementation.

87. Given the region's vulnerability to climate change, CELAC recognized the importance of strengthening the Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction 2015-2030. Fulfilling all the goals of the Sendai Framework would make a substantial contribution towards disaster risk reduction and management.

88. CELAC members also recognized the importance of strengthening climate change mitigation and adaptation measures and ensuring the means of implementation for developing countries to carry out their climate actions. In that regard, CELAC called on the developed countries to fulfil all their climate-related financial commitments.

89. Lastly, international cooperation must take into account the different development stages, priorities, circumstances and capabilities of developing countries, while reaffirming that every State could freely exercise full and permanent sovereignty over its wealth, natural resources and economic activity.

90. **Mr. Aboulatta** (Egypt), speaking on behalf of the Group of African States, said that poverty eradication was fundamental to the 2030 Agenda and the greatest challenge in the quest to achieve sustainable development. While the global poverty rate had halved since the launch of the Millennium Development Goals in 2000, intensive efforts were still needed, particularly in Africa, to boost incomes, alleviate suffering and

build the resilience of those still living in extreme poverty. As 400 million of the 800 million people living below the poverty line were from Africa, the goal of leaving no one behind there remained remote and had become more challenging in a context of extreme global economic inequality, declining ODA trends and other exacerbating factors such as continuing illicit financial flows. In that context, the Group particularly wished to highlight the importance of identifying and returning stolen African assets to their countries of origin. It also called for the Committee of Experts on International Cooperation in Tax Matters to be upgraded to an intergovernmental body in order to provide a universal forum to consider that issue.

91. Industrialization, infrastructure development and innovation held the key to achieving higher economic growth and eradicating poverty in Africa. Indeed, the African Union's Agenda 2063 had focused on those issues as being vital to the continent's sustainable development efforts. The economic opportunities provided by industry stimulated entrepreneurship, technological dynamism and increased productivity. A lack of infrastructure was a major impediment to productivity in all sectors of the African economy, which explained the need to accelerate the implementation of infrastructure flagship projects. A well-integrated and coherent approach to infrastructure in all areas, combined with the use of modern technology, would lead to swift structural transformation.

92. The key to such structural transformation was for African countries to bring value addition to their commodities, rather than continue exporting them as raw materials. The regional trading architecture of Africa was changing to make use of economic complementarities and economies of scale. A continental free trade area was also being pursued. In the current global economic system, improved market access was very important for Africa and for developing countries in general. To that end, support would be sought from partners, including through preferential trade arrangements.

93. While almost 70 per cent of Africans depended on agriculture for their incomes, the agricultural sector represented only a third of the continent's gross domestic product (GDP). Efforts to improve agricultural productivity could therefore drive demand in other important economic sectors. That would trigger economic growth and lift millions of people out of poverty, including in rural areas.

94. Unfortunately, the effects of climate change on the continent had already been devastating. The onset of drought, desertification and land degradation had severely curtailed and derailed Africa's development prospects and even threatened to roll back achievements made over the past two decades.

95. The African Group supported the implementation of the outcome document of Habitat III. While it wished to strengthen the United Nations Settlements Programme (UN-Habitat), the package of recommendations proposed by the High-level Independent Panel to Assess and Enhance the Effectiveness of UN-Habitat would not necessarily do so. However, the Group remained optimistic that the reform process would eventually provide practical recommendations to that end.

96. A truly revitalized global and regional partnership was needed to overcome existing challenges and accelerate sustainable development. Such a partnership must be faithful to the promise of leaving no one behind and to the people-centred approach that underpinned the overarching development strategies in place, both globally and in Africa. International development cooperation must therefore be mobilized in a way that focused supported to the areas of greatest need. As the region with the largest number of least developed countries, including countries in conflict and post-conflict situations, Africa should remain at the centre of the global partnership for development.

97. The African Union's Agenda 2063 and the 2030 Agenda of the United Nations had been fashioned in a coherent manner to support Africa's sustainable development. Accordingly, the efforts undertaken by Africa and the commitments made by the international community must be aligned to ensure that the continent was not left behind. Africa remained the litmus test for assessing the success of the 2030 Agenda.

98. **Mr. Gadabu** (Nauru), speaking on behalf of the Pacific small island developing States, said that the reforms envisaged to the United Nations development system reflected the transformative ambition of the 2030 Agenda and would have implications for the work of the Committee. It was important for the Committee to ensure that those reforms supported and did not undermine national actions to achieve the Sustainable Development Goals. Moreover, the Committee must be attuned to the interlinkages between areas that had traditionally been considered separate. For example, as the security implications of climate change continued to accelerate, the United Nations system must adapt accordingly.

99. In grappling with the task of translating an aspirational agenda into policy, it was all the more critical to continue to be guided by the fundamental principles of universality and commitment to the most vulnerable. Small island developing States possessed particular vulnerabilities that made them a special case in the context of sustainable development.

100. Fortunately, the comprehensive review of United Nations system support for small island developing States (A/72/119), undertaken by the Joint Inspection Unit, provided a concrete and actionable path forward. The Committee's work, including its resolution on follow-up and implementation of the SIDS Accelerated Modalities of Action (SAMOA) Pathway (Samoa Pathway), would be critical for implementing the recommendations contained in that comprehensive review. One of the most important recommendations from the review was the need to formulate new eligibility criteria for access to financing for development and technical assistance to be provided to small island developing States. Classification according to income often excluded them from preferential treatment, despite their significant vulnerabilities.

101. More broadly, financing for development was an urgent priority. Without actionable streams of financing, the promise of the Sustainable Goals and targets would go unfulfilled. International development cooperation and genuine, durable partnerships were essential for sustainable development, particularly for small island developing States where opportunities for additional domestic resources were limited.

102. The worsening impact of climate change had recently resulted in tragic consequences. A staggering number of lives had been lost and the affected communities would spend many years rebuilding. Extreme weather events had been all too common, and projections indicated that the situation would continue to worsen for the foreseeable future. The Committee's work must therefore be attuned to that dangerous new reality and the urgent need to reduce vulnerability and build resilience in the places most at risk. Furthermore, in view of the mounting security implications of climate change, an appropriate institutional response was required. That included the appointment of a Special Representative of the Secretary-General on Climate and Security.

103. There were close interlinkages between the health of the ocean and the Sustainable Development Goals and targets. The Pacific small island developing States would continue to advocate for recognition of the importance of the ocean in the work of the Committee, particularly with regard to their sustainable development.

104. **Mr. Sisilo** (Solomon Islands), speaking on behalf of the Pacific Islands Development Forum, said that, over the past two decades, the international community had forged a remarkable consensus on the imperative to move towards a sustainable future that left no one behind while ensuring the health of the planet. The 2030 Agenda, the Addis Ababa Action Agenda, the Paris Agreement, the Samoa Pathway and the declaration entitled "Our ocean, our future: call for action", as contained in the annex to General Assembly resolution 71/312, provided a comprehensive framework to achieve that objective. As the General Assembly body most closely associated with that overall framework, the Committee must redouble its efforts to achieve those shared objectives.

105. The leaders of the Pacific Islands Development Forum had endorsed a road map and implementation strategy for the 2030 Agenda, which demonstrated the region's commitment to achieving the Sustainable Development Goals. The Forum particularly looked forward to engaging in debate concerning the annual resolution on the Samoa Pathway and the recommendations of the Joint Inspection Unit on the United Nations system support for small island developing States. It also looked forward to the 2019 review of that framework in order to effectively reflect the priorities of small island developing States and their development needs.

106. In view of the threat posed by climate change, the Forum encouraged the United Nations system to increase its assistance to small island developing States and its focus on issues of concern to them, including reducing vulnerability and building resilience. It also called on the international financial institutions to provide small island developing States with greater access to concessional finance and climate funds.

107. **Mr. Mohamed** (Maldives), speaking on behalf of the Alliance of Small Island States, said that the Alliance attached great importance to the work of the Committee, which had taken centre stage on global development issues and had contributed to broader national sustainable development efforts. In that context, small island developing States deserved special consideration owing to the unique challenges that they faced, such as their remote locations, highly dispersed populations, distance to markets, susceptibility to external shocks and vulnerability to the effects of climate change. It was therefore heartening that those conditions, and the need for synergies with the Samoa Pathway, had been

recognized. The Alliance looked forward to the adoption of the annual resolution on the Samoa Pathway, which would highlight the different mechanisms to improve vital support to small island developing States from the United Nations system.

108. The devastating hurricanes that had devastated a number of small island developing States in the Caribbean in recent weeks highlighted the urgent need for action in response to climate change. The inherent vulnerabilities and limited resilience of small island developing States were two key issues that must be addressed. In particular, the international financial institutions should enhance access for them to concessionary financing. It was important to consider criteria other than GDP when determining eligibility criteria for concessionary and non-concessionary financing opportunities. Multidimensional measures should be developed that accounted for the particular contextual vulnerabilities of small island developing States. They should also participate in any decision-making and norm-setting processes.

109. **Ms. Adamson** (European Union) said that, by reaching agreement on the 2030 Agenda, the Addis Ababa Action Agenda and the Paris Agreement, the international community had adopted the most ambitious sustainable development agenda ever. That agenda should guide policy and action in countries at all stages of their development and should also steer the Committee in its work.

110. The European Union attached great importance to the Committee living up to its full potential and regretted the fact that discussions on its revitalization had thus far not made more progress. While the steps already taken to improve the Committee's work were welcome, much more needed to be done to improve its efficient functioning. In particular, the European Union would continue to insist on the need to ensure respect for the deadlines set by the Bureau, and for rule 153 of the rules of procedure of the General Assembly. It would also seek to avoid duplication with other United Nations forums, such as the high-level political forum.

111. Furthermore, the European Union would support measures that allocated more time for discussions on the preparation and negotiation of resolutions. Where the late submission of a draft resolution did not allow sufficient time for consultations to be held in order to achieve consensus on a meaningful resolution, the draft resolution in question should be referred to the next session.

112. The Sustainable Development Goals were an extraordinary opportunity to prioritize efforts beneficial to the planet and its people. In June 2017, as part of its response to the 2030 Agenda, the European Union had adopted a shared vision for development policy that also took into account the Addis Ababa Action Agenda and the Paris Agreement: the new European Consensus on Development. Engagement by the European Union with the Committee would be guided by that policy, by the principles outlined above and also by the principle of leaving no one behind.

113. While the global economy was gaining momentum, many citizens in Europe still felt left behind by the economic recovery and were apprehensive about globalization. Strong, sustained, balanced and inclusive growth relied on multilateral cooperation and a rules-based order, which would both be essential to address the root causes of large movements of refugees and migrants. Empowering women and girls and protecting their human rights were also essential cross-cutting elements for progress on poverty eradication and sustainable development.

114. As climate change was one of the most pressing global challenges, there was a need to reaffirm joint commitments to the full implementation of the Paris Agreement and to place an emphasis on protecting the environment from further degradation. The European Union looked forward to discussing with partners how to achieve those common objectives.

115. The European Union strongly supported the work of the Secretary-General on United Nations reform, including reform of its development system. Since the follow-up report of the Secretary-General on repositioning the United Nations development system was still ongoing, any resolution on operational activities for development should be short, focused and purely procedural.

116. **Mr. Kapambwe** (Zambia), speaking on behalf of the Group of Landlocked Developing Countries, said that the Group attached great importance to the work of the Committee at the current session, which marked the third year since the adoption of the Vienna Programme of Action for Landlocked Developing Countries for the Decade 2014-2024. The Group continued to present mixed results on key socioeconomic indicators, as demonstrated in the report of the Secretary-General on the implementation of the Vienna Programme of Action (A/72/272). GDP of landlocked developing countries as a group had fallen from 6.9 per cent in 2013 to 2.6 per cent in 2016 and the average human development index for their countries was 0.571, which indicated that most of their people were still living in extreme poverty.

117. While international trade was important for landlocked developing countries, their proportion of

global merchandise exports had declined from 0.96 per cent in 2015 to 0.88 per cent in 2016. In addition, the Group had recorded a trade deficit of some $38 billion in 2016, an increase from $29 billion in 2015. Most landlocked developing countries continued to have trade deficits, which had implications for their overall development. They also remained vulnerable owing to volatile commodity prices and slow economic growth.

118. Some progress had been made in transport infrastructure development in most landlocked developing countries. However, the infrastructure deficit, including in the areas of transport, information and communications technology and energy, remained high. Science, technology and innovation were key drivers of socioeconomic development and were necessary for structural transformation. Access to new and appropriate technologies promoted steady improvements in living conditions and could also drive productivity gains, which meant rising incomes. Closing technology gaps was essential for eradicating poverty and reducing inequality within and among countries. Environmentally sound and affordable technologies must therefore be accessible to developing countries.

119. As landlocked developing countries were affected by climate change, desertification and land degradation, they attached great importance to the implementation of the Paris Agreement and also the United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification in Those Countries Experiencing Serious Drought and/or Desertification, Particularly in Africa. The capacity and financial constraints of landlocked developing countries must be addressed in order for them to make progress on the implementation of the Vienna Programme of Action and the 2030 Agenda, including through technology transfer.

120. The Group was concerned that, despite the limited resources and competing development challenges faced by landlocked developing countries, ODA flows to them had decreased from $26.1 billion in 2014 to $24.8 billion in 2015. As ODA remained the main source of external finance for many landlocked developing countries, accounting for 10 per cent of gross national income in eight of them, it was important for ODA to be increased.

121. During the current session, collective solutions should be put forward to build productive capacities, create jobs and generate sustainable livelihoods in landlocked developing countries. In particular, solutions were needed to improve their transit systems, facilitate their structural transformation, enhance their participation in global trade, strengthen their governance and forge meaningful partnerships at the global and regional levels.

122. The high costs of trade faced by landlocked developing countries must be addressed in order to facilitate their integration into the global economy, including through support for their implementation of the WTO Trade Facilitation Agreement. Product diversification and value addition, combined with increased productivity in traditional sectors such as agriculture, were also vital for building their economic resilience.

123. The Group called for Member States to ratify the Multilateral Agreement for the Establishment of an International Think Tank for Landlocked Developing Countries, which was expected to enter into force on 6 October 2017. The International Think Tank would enhance the analytical capabilities of landlocked developing countries and provide grassroots research to meet their specific needs.

124. Forging stronger economic ties and building local technological capacities continued to have a positive impact on trade, financial flows and economic growth among developing countries. South-South cooperation and triangular cooperation were therefore important for the realization of the 2030 Agenda. However, South-South cooperation should not be seen as a substitute for, but rather as a complement to, North-South and triangular cooperation.

125. **Ms. Rubiales de Chamorro** (Nicaragua) said that the adoption of the 2030 agenda represented one of the most historic achievements in Organization's quest to establish a just global order in which people could live together in peace. However, threats such as the imposition of coercive economic measures continued to be one of the main threats to the implementation of the 2030 Agenda.

126. Endemic poverty and inequality had become more marked than ever in developed and developing countries alike, especially for vulnerable and marginalized groups and for peoples living under colonial and foreign occupation.

127. The right to development was a right for all. Nicaragua urged the developed countries to finally meet their ODA commitments and to provide additional, predicable and sufficient financial resources. Financing for development was also crucial for the implementation of the 2030 Agenda. In that context, the principle of common but differentiated responsibilities must be respected. Developing countries could not be expected to have the same responsibilities as developed countries. A genuine

global alliance also meant providing them with access to financial and technological resources.

128. Nicaragua was one of the most successful countries in the region in terms of sustained economic growth. It had reduced extreme poverty by about 50 per cent and overall poverty by 40 per cent. However, many challenged remained.

129. Urgent and bold action was needed to combat climate change. Developed countries should take the lead in that regard and change their unsustainable modes of production and consumption. They should also meet their financial commitments, including through technology transfer, and the international community must increase its support for disaster risk reduction efforts in developing countries.

130. Lastly, Nicaragua reiterated its solidarity with the Palestinian people in their struggle for freedom and the exercise of their inalienable rights. As peoples living under occupation were also entitled to development, her delegation supported the inclusion in the Committee's agenda of the annual resolution on permanent sovereignty of the Palestinian people in the Occupied Palestinian Territory, including East Jerusalem, and of the Arab population in the occupied Syrian Golan over their natural resources.

131. **Mr. Mayong Onon** (Malaysia) said that the past year had been a remarkable one for the United Nations, particularly owing to the joint efforts undertaken to implement the 2030 Agenda. In July 2017 the Secretary-General had launched the process of repositioning the United Nations development system. While Malaysia supported that idea in principle, the outcome of the process should reflect Member States' ownership of the overall development agenda. Operational activities for development should also take into account the need to build the long-term sustainable development capacity of developing countries.

132. Malaysia had taken five specific steps for the systematic and measurable achievement of the Sustainable Development Goals: the establishment of a multi-stakeholder, participatory governance structure; the holding of national symposiums and forums on the Goals to promote participation by stakeholders; studies on data readiness and gap analysis; a mapping exercise involving non-governmental and civil society organizations and the private sector, to align the Goals with initiatives in the eleventh national development plan; and the development of a national road map on the Goals.

133. In July 2017, Malaysia had presented its voluntary national review at the high-level political forum. The review had included reports on the actions taken by Malaysia to advance the achievement of the Sustainable Development Goals. The Government of Malaysia was working to ensure that every citizen had an equitable share of the nation's prosperity and wealth, and that no one was left behind.

134. **Mr. Hattrem** (Norway) said that the world had experienced unprecedented growth during the last decade. However, substantial challenges remained and concerted efforts were needed to address them. The 2030 Agenda, the Addis Ababa Action Agenda and the Paris Agreement called for new and strategic partnerships at all levels to eradicate poverty through sustainable and inclusive development. It was simply unacceptable that 800 million people still lived in extreme poverty. The international community must step up its collective efforts to prevent and curb conflicts and wars, and build basic social and economic infrastructure that could reach the most vulnerable.

135. Sustainable transformation also hinged on the ability to address climate change and save the oceans. Hurricanes in the Caribbean with devastating effects on small island States, extreme flooding in Asia and drought in Africa underlined the urgency of prioritizing sustainability and preventing disasters. Norway fully supported the establishment of the Secretary-General's new Climate Action Team. Leadership from the Secretary-General was vital in coordinating global efforts to address climate change through efficient mitigation and adaptation measures. Similarly, ensuring the sound management and sustainable use of the oceans was vital for achieving the Sustainable Development Goals. His delegation therefore welcomed the Secretary's Generals appointment of a Special Envoy for the Ocean.

136. Norway similarly welcomed the Secretary-General's efforts to reposition the United Nations development system to deliver more effectively, efficiency and coherently, including on the 2030 Agenda. A reformed system should focus on those areas where the needs were greatest and where the most difference could be made, collaborate better with other actors, including multilateral development banks, and be accountable and transparent.

137. A funding compact could help to improve the quality and predictability of funding. Funding modalities that provided incentives for United Nations organizations to work together should also be increasingly used.

138. While ODA would continue to be important, in particular for least developed countries, that alone could not transform societies. The Sustainable

Development Goals could not be achieved without greater efforts to mobilize domestic resources for development. Addressing illicit financial flows was crucial in that regard and efforts must be stepped up to curb them. The increased attention being given to that issue was encouraging.

139. The 2030 Agenda required transformative change. That also applied to the Committee Delegations must engage with each other during the current session to improve the way the Committee worked and update its agenda in order to ensure its relevance, impact and value added.